

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1 to 4, 6 and 8 to 12 are amended as set forth hereinafter.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for operating an internal combustion engine including an internal combustion engine of a motor vehicle, the method comprising the steps of:

checking the operability of at least one component by a  
5 diagnostic function (D);  
causing said diagnostic function (D) to transmit  
data (CB)[[,]] that said diagnostic function (D) could have found  
a fault [[,]] to a central function (CF) in a format uniform for  
all diagnostic functions (D); and,  
10 causing said central function (CF) to process said  
data (CB).

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each of  
said diagnostic functions (D) communicates with the central  
function (CF) via an interface (IF) ~~(FID)~~; and, the central  
function (CF) establishes for each diagnostic function (D), which  
5 identifies itself to said central function (CF) at said  
interface (FID), a region (REC) of a suitable data structure

wherein data (SB, IB, CB, CVA, CVB) of the diagnostic function (D) and for the diagnostic function (D) are stored.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 2,~~

A method for operating an internal combustion engine including an internal combustion engine of a motor vehicle, the method comprising the steps of:

5       checking the operability of at least one component by a diagnostic function (D);

causing said diagnostic function (D) to transmit data (CB) that said diagnostic function (D) could have found a fault to a central function (CF) in a format uniform for all diagnostic  
10 functions (D); and,

causing said central function (CF) to process said data (CB),

wherein each of said diagnostic functions (D) communicates with the central function (CF) via an interface (IF); and, the  
15 central function (CF) establishes for each diagnostic function (D), which identifies itself to said central function (CF) at said interface (FID), a region (REC) of a suitable data structure wherein data for the diagnostic function (D) and

20       ~~wherein the following are stored in the region (REC) of the suitable data structure: an identifier (S) of the diagnostic function (D), data (CB) as to whether the diagnostic function (D) could have run and data (IB) as to whether the diagnostic function (D) is blocked or can run~~ are stored.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~

A method for operating an internal combustion engine including an internal combustion engine of a motor vehicle, the method comprising the steps of:

5       checking the operability of at least one component by a diagnostic function (D);

causing said diagnostic function (D) to transmit data (CB) that said diagnostic function (D) could have found a fault to a central function (CF) in a format uniform for all diagnostic  
10       functions (D); and,

causing said central function (CF) to process said data (CB).

          wherein the central function (CF) detects whether specific operating conditions of the internal combustion engine are  
15       satisfied whereat the running of the diagnostic function (D) is expected with a certain frequency of occurrence and wherein the central function (CF) determines a first numerical value (CVA) which is based on the a number of possible runthroughs executions of the diagnostic function (D) and determines a second numerical  
20       value (CVB) which is based on the number of specific operating conditions which have actually been present.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the central function (CF) blocks an execution of the diagnostic function (D) and a change of the second numerical value (CVB) by a common functionality (INH) when a component (S2, S3) is defective, the  
5       component (S2, S3) being necessary for achieving a purposeful diagnostic result.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~

A method for operating an internal combustion engine including an internal combustion engine of a motor vehicle, the method comprising the steps of:

checking the operability of at least one component by a diagnostic function (D);

causing said diagnostic function (D) to transmit data (CB) that said diagnostic function (D) could have found a fault to a central function (CF) in a format uniform for all diagnostic functions (D); and,

causing said central function (CF) to process said data (CB),

wherein a third numerical value (CVC) is determined in the central function (CF), said numerical value (CVC) being based on the a number of specific operating conditions which actually were present.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein a change of the third numerical value (CVC) is blocked in the central function (CF) if it is determined that a component (S3) is defective which is necessary in order to detect whether the specific operating conditions were present.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~

A method for operating an internal combustion engine including an internal combustion engine of a motor vehicle, the method comprising the steps of:

checking the operability of at least one component by a diagnostic function (D);

causing said diagnostic function (D) to transmit data (CB) that said diagnostic function (D) could have found a fault to a central function (CF) in a format uniform for all diagnostic functions (D); and,

causing said central function (CF) to process said data (CB),

wherein a fourth numerical value (CVD) is determined in the central function (CF) which is based on the number of starts of the internal combustion engine.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the content of the regions (REC) of the suitable data structure is inquired of in the central function (CF) in a specific ~~and~~ relatively slow computation raster (CALC) which is slow relative to other functions and the corresponding numerical values (CVA, CVB) are determined and stored, with these numerical values (CVA, CVB) being specific to the particular diagnostic function (D).

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~  
A method for operating an internal combustion engine including an internal combustion engine of a motor vehicle, the method comprising the steps of:

checking the operability of at least one component by a diagnostic function (D);

causing said diagnostic function (D) to transmit data (CB) that said diagnostic function (D) could have found a fault to a

central function (CF) in a format uniform for all diagnostic  
10 functions (D); and,

causing said central function (CF) to process said  
data (CB).

wherein, when an external inquiry apparatus is connected, in  
the central function (CF), that quotient (MIN) from ~~the~~ a  
15 particular first numerical value (CVA) and ~~the~~ a particular  
second numerical value (CVB) of a plurality of diagnostic  
functions (D) is outputted, which has the lowest value; and, the  
quotient (MIN) and the data, from which it becomes apparent to  
which diagnostic function (D) the quotient (MIN) is allocated,  
20 are transmitted to the external inquiry apparatus.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer program comprising being  
programmed for carrying out a method for operating an internal  
combustion engine including an internal combustion engine of a  
motor vehicle, the program being stored on a memory medium and  
5 the method including the steps of:

checking the operability of at least one component by a  
diagnostic function (D);

causing said diagnostic function (D) to transmit  
data (CB) [[,]] that said diagnostic function (D) could have found  
10 a fault [[,]] to a central function (CF) in a format uniform for  
all diagnostic functions (D); and,

causing said central function (CF) to process said  
data (CB).

12. (Currently Amended) A memory medium for a control apparatus

of an internal combustion engine, the memory medium comprising a computer program programmed for carrying out a method for operating an internal combustion engine including an internal combustion engine of a motor vehicle, the program being stored on  
5 the memory medium and the method including the steps of:

checking the operability of at least one component by a diagnostic function (D);

causing said diagnostic function (D) to transmit  
10 data (CB)[[,]] that said diagnostic function (D) could have found a fault [[,]] to a central function (CF) in a format uniform for all diagnostic functions (D); and,

causing said central function (CF) to process said data (CB).